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RECEIVED CENTRAL FAX CENTER

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

SEP 0 5 2006

In the Application, please amend or cancel each claim as hereinafter indicated.

- 1. (Currently Amended) A method of contrast matching a first image and a second image, said method comprising the steps of:
- (a) generating operating a controller to generate an image ratio of [[the]] said tirst image and [[the]] said second image, wherein said image ratio having has a numerator representing said first image and a denominator representing said second image;
- (b) regularizing operating said controller to regularize [[the]] said image ratio by adding a constant to [[the]] said denominator to form a regularized image ratio;
- (c) filtering operating said controller to filter [[the]] said regularized image ratio to form a filtered ratio; and
- (d) multiplying operating said controller to multiply [[the]] said second image by [[the]] said filtered ratio to form an adjusted image having a contrast that better matches the contrast of said first image as viewed on a monitor.
- 2. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein filtering semprises low-pass filtering step (c) is at least partially accomplished by operating said controller to execute a low-pass filter function.
- 3. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 2, wherein low pass filtering comprises beccar filtering said low-pass filter function is a boxcar type filter function.
 - 4. (Cancelled)
- 5. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein regularizing step (b) further comprises multiplying operating said controller to multiply [[the]] said numerator by [[the]] said second image and also multiply [[the]] said denominator by

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[[the]] said second image [[and]] before adding [[the]] said constant to [[the]] said denominator.

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- 6. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein multiplying semprises multiplying the second image by the filtered ratio to form the adjusted image where the step (d) is accomplished so that said adjusted image is substantially contrast matched to [[the]] said first image.
- 7. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein multiplying comprises multiplying the second image by the filtered ratio to form the adjusted image where the step (d) is accomplished so that said adjusted image is substantially brightness matched to [[the]] said first image.
- 8. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein multiplying eemprises multiplying the second image by the filtered ratio to form the adjusted image where the step (d) is accomplished so that said adjusted image is substantially both contrast matched and brightness matched to [[the]] said first image.
- 9. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising prior to filtering, regularizing an image ratio of the second image with respect to the first image to form a regularized image ratio wherein said controller comprises at least one computer.
- 10. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a digital <u>imaging system</u> having an image <u>forming</u> device <u>coupled to a controller with a monitor, said method</u> comprising <u>the steps of</u>:
- (a) generating operating said image forming device to generate a first digital image;
- (b) generating operating said image forming device to generate a second digital image; and

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- (c) matching operating said controller to match [[the]] said second digital image to [[the]] said first digital image by[[.]]
- (i) generating an image ratio of [[the]] <u>said</u> first <u>digital</u> image and [[the]] <u>said</u> second <u>digital</u> image, <u>wherein</u> said <u>image</u> ratio <u>having</u> <u>has</u> a numerator <u>representing</u> <u>said first digital image</u> and a denominator <u>representing said second digital image</u>;
- (ii) regularizing [[an]] <u>said</u> image ratio of the second image with respect to the first image to form a regularized image ratio;
 - (iii) filtering [[the]] said regularized image ratio to form a filtered ratio; and
- (iv) multiplying [[the]] <u>said</u> second <u>digital</u> image by [[the]] <u>said</u> filtered ratio to form an adjusted image <u>that better matches said first digital image as viewed on said monitor.</u>
- 11. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 10, wherein filtering comprises lew pass filtering sub-step (iii) is at least partially accomplished by executing a low-pass filter function.
- 12. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 11, wherein low pass filtering comprises bexear filtering said low-pass filter function is a boxcar type filter function.
 - 13. (Cancelled)
- 14. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 10, wherein regularizing comprises sub-step (ii) is at least partially accomplished by multiplying [[the]] said numerator by [[the]] said second digital image, [[and]] multiplying [[the]] said denominator by [[the]] said second digital image, and adding [[the]] a constant to [[the]] said denominator.

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- (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 10, wherein multiplying 15. comprises multiplying the second image by the filtered ratio to form the adjusted image where the sub-step (iv) is accomplished so that said adjusted image is substantially contrast matched to [[the]] said first digital image.
- (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 10, wherein multiplying 16. comprises multiplying the second image by the filtered ratio to form the adjusted image where the sub-step (iv) is accomplished so that said adjusted image is substantially brightness matched to [[the]] said first digital image.
- (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 10, wherein multiplying 17. comprises multiplying the second image by the filtered ratio to form the adjusted image where the sub-step (iv) is accomplished so that said adjusted image is substantially both contrast matched and brightness matched to [[the]] said first digital image.
- (Currently Amended) An imaging system comprising: 18. an image forming device for generating a first image and a second image; and a controller coupled to said image forming device for receiving said first image and said second image;

wherein said controller is operable for (i) generating an image ratio of [[the]] said first image and [[the]] said second image, said image ratio having a numerator representing said first image and a denominator representing said second image; (ii) regularizing [[an]] said image ratio of the second image with respect to the first image to form a regularized image-ratio by adding a constant to [[the]] said denominator to form a regularized image ratio[[,]]; (iii) filtering [[the]] said regularized image ratio to form a filtered ratio[[,]]; and (iv) multiplying [[the]] said second image by [[the]] said filtered ratio to form an adjusted image that better matches said first image as viewed on a display.

(Currently Amended) An imaging system as recited in claim 18, said 19. imaging system further comprising a display monitor coupled to said controller for displaying said adjusted image.

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20. (Currently Amended) An imaging system as recited in claim 18, said imaging system further comprising a storage medium coupled to said controller for storing [[the]] said first image, [[the]] said second image, and [[the]] said adjusted image.